

## Third Dredge To Speed Lake Cleanup

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

A third dredge has been added to the arsenal of equipment used for the ongoing sediment cleanup of Little Lake Butte des Morts.

Dredge number 3 can be seen removing PCB-contaminated sediment deposits along the southeast side of the lake just north of Menasha's new bicycle path, Friendship Trail.

In addition to the extra dredge, a back hoe will also be in the area excavating contaminated wood chips on the shore on the east side of the lake.

According to EPA Remedial Project Manager Jim Hahnenberg, the equipment should make this portion of the PCB cleanup go faster. "We need it to meet our production goals for this year," he remarked. "Our goals include the removal of 100,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment and wood chips. That would be equal to a football field filled six stories high with mud."

Sampling has also been a routine part of the cleanup. "We've been sampling areas that have been dredged to see if we are having good results," Hahnenberg continued. "In other words, we want to determine if those areas are clean or not."

Hahnenberg said that people in the area will notice the extra activity, but it won't create any added dust or noise near the bicycle trail.



*A worker cleans the cutterhead on one of three dredges in Little Lake Butte des Morts.*

While sediment with lower levels of contamination is being trucked to the Hickory Meadows Landfill near Chilton, highly contaminated sediment will be sent out of state. This "hazardous" waste will most likely be taken to a facility in Michigan because it has permits to accept such waste.

Hahnenberg added that the dewatering, or squeezing, of contaminated sediment using large, geotextile tubes continues to operate on North Lake Street, however, some new techniques are being tried to see if that process can be improved. "We want to see if production can be increased so that part of the project can go faster," he said.

*See Third Dredge, Page 3*

# Trustee Council Funds Two New Restoration Projects

By Colette Charbonneau, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council recently approved two more restoration projects.

The first project includes habitat preservation in the Door County Land Trust's Little Lake Wildlife Habitat Area on Washington Island, Door County, Wis. The area was designed to protect wildlife habitat (homes), wetlands, lakeshore and forest resources in a significant natural area on Washington Island.

This area is considered to be important because it is the only inland lake on the island, including wetlands, along the edge of the lake. It is also a favorite nesting spot for ducks and stopover site for migratory birds.

"The restoration project approved by the trustee council will protect over 50 acres of pristine wetlands including waterfowl breeding areas, undeveloped lakeshore on both Little Lake and Green Bay and forested uplands," stated Terrie Cooper, associate director for the Door County Land Trust. The Door County Land Trust was also granted funding for this project from the Wisconsin State Stewardship Grant Program.

The second project will be completed by the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin using \$94,000 in natural resource damage assessment settlement funds and a Bureau of Indian Affairs grant award. This restoration project, which will begin this winter, will restore the west branch of the Wolf River and river habitat through removal of a log jam of large woody debris and other waste, mainly steel cables from an old logging project site.

According to Doug Cox, Menominee environmental specialist, the log jam has been blocking this portion of the river for almost 100 years. "There was an historic flood in 1912 that caused the log jam," Cox explained. "The logs and the cables that were holding free-floating logs from a storage area were washed away."

Cox said over the years, solid waste such as tires, basketballs, bikes and bottles have also gotten mixed in.



*The Little Lake Wildlife Habitat Area on Washington Island in Door County was designed to protect wildlife habitat, wetlands, lakeshore and forest resources.*

"I wouldn't be surprised if we find a kitchen sink in there," he continued.

Cox emphasized this is not a typical garbage cleanup project. He said once everything is cleared out, the tribe expects to see many environmental benefits to brook trout and wild rice plants.

"We will have additional habitat for trout and with one stream that is in back to normal condition, we'll be able to manage our wild rice better," Cox stated. "Currently, the rice can't be harvested due to the log jam."

Over the years, the debris has effectively blocked the main channel of the river resulting in the formation of several little channels, referred to as a braided channel, with reduced flow and depth and increased water temperatures. Removal of the log jam and further restoration along the shore and river will result in fast moving, shallow areas of cold water and pools that once hosted a diverse population of aquatic life including a healthy reproducing native brook trout population.

Cox concluded, "These areas will be perfect for trout spawning."

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Cleanup in and around the lake will continue into early December, weather permitting. It is scheduled to resume in May 2006.

Designs for the downstream areas as well as Green Bay are also moving along. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are reviewing a document called the "Basis of Design." This document, submitted in August by NCR Operating Co., Inc. and Georgia-Pacific Corp., details how the cleanup would be done. According to Hahnenberg, it refines what is in the 2003 cleanup decision document (record of decision).

"I know it seems like we have been sampling forever, but now we need a lot more detail on exactly where to dig," he explained. "We need to know precisely where to dredge so we will remove only what we need to remove."

To accomplish this, nearly 10,000 samples of PCB-contaminated sediment were taken in the downstream areas from Appleton to Green Bay and about 6,000 samples in Little Lake Butte des Morts. The results will help engineers select the types of equipment to use and will tell them how long it will take to do the dredging.

"It tells them exactly what they need to know when they are out there actually doing the work," Hahnenberg added.

Because the sediment with the highest levels of contamination will be taken out of state, the edges of the contaminated sediment deposits are being sampled. This will help engineers separate what can stay in Wisconsin versus what will be transported to another facility out of state.

"We have a general idea of where the higher areas of contamination are located, but we want to try to make that area as small as possible," Hahnenberg continued. "The areas with the most contamination will go out of state, so we want to find out where they pick up and drop off. We don't want to remove more than we have to, mostly for cost reasons, nor do we want to use up more space than we need at a hazardous waste landfill."

The Basis of Design report, which discusses the downstream portion of the cleanup, will be available to the public at the information repositories listed on Page 7 and at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm//foxriver/index.html> by the end of the year.



## Out and About...

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership is made up of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin and Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin. These partners, as well as other supporting agencies, regularly provide speakers to organizations in the Fox Valley area. The following people recently made presentations:

### September

- ◆ *Jim Hahnenberg*, EPA: Sediment Management Workgroup meeting, Green Bay; Lower Fox River downstream cleanup design.

### October

- ◆ *Jim Hahnenberg*, EPA: Sediment Remediation course, New York; general Lower Fox River cleanup.
- ◆ *Jim Hahnenberg*, EPA: Loyola University Environmental Law class, Chicago; Superfund process and its application to the Lower Fox River cleanup.

*The Fox River Current is featuring promising natural resource damage assessment projects in and near the Lower Fox River.*

# Spotlight On:

## FWS Partners and Ducks Unlimited to Restore Waterfowl Habitat

By Colette Charbonneau, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Leopold Wetland Management District includes the 2,000-acre Uihlein Waterfowl Production Area in Winnebago County, Wis. which is managed as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Ducks Unlimited, Inc. has been an instrumental partner in providing FWS with financial and technical assistance for restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat (homes). FWS and Ducks Unlimited partnered again to restore a 40-acre wetland in the Uihlein WPA using restoration settlement funds approved by the Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council as well as funding from Ducks Unlimited and FWS.

The work to restore the wetland included refurbishing dikes and the placement of a water control structure. Wetland managers will now be able to raise and lower the water level to control the type of plants that grow in the restored area. The wetland will be a semi-permanent marsh and wet meadow that is an important habitat for ducks that breed and nest in the area. It will also serve as a stopping point to fuel up on food along their migration route. The restored habitat will also be used by reptiles, amphibians, mammals and other wetland and grassland birds. FWS has documented Forrester's, common and black terns and great egrets using the Uihlein WPA. These species are listed as rare in Wisconsin. The federally listed threatened eastern prairie fringed orchid is also found on the WPA.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE LENZ, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

*Ground-moving work was accomplished at the Uihlein Waterfowl Production Area with a new dike (left) and a water control structure pipe (center bottom). This will allow the level of the water on the wetland to be controlled.*

“This wetland restoration could not have been accomplished as successfully without the effort of Ducks Unlimited or the support from the trustee council,” stated Steve Lenz, FWS Leopold Wetland Management District manager. “We hope people will come to the area to enjoy the wildlife that arrives to the restored wetland.”

Uihlein WPA is open for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation activities.

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The natural resource trustees are comprised of FWS, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Michigan Attorney General, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For further information on NRDA projects, contact Trustee Council Coordinator Colette Charbonneau, FWS, at [Colette\\_Charbonneau@fws.gov](mailto:Colette_Charbonneau@fws.gov) or at (920) 866-1726.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RANDY STONE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*Because this wetland on the Uihlein Waterfowl Production Area has been restored, water levels for optimum duck habitat will be better controlled after fall or spring rains fill up the basin.*

## Health Department Develops 'Portable' Fish Advisory Signs

By Jim Morrison, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services is working to make the fish advisory signs posted along the Lower Fox River portable.

New pamphlets will provide advisory information through color images and information translated in Spanish and Hmong. In addition to a warning notice, readers can flip to the back side to see information about properly filleting fish to minimize PCB exposure. This information will also be translated into Spanish and Hmong.

"We continue to work to reach the public with this important message," said Dr. Henry Anderson, WDHFS chief medical officer. "We want to encourage people to fish, but to be safe in choosing the right fish to eat."

The pamphlets will be given to anglers during stream-side interviews and will also be distributed to local health departments. They are scheduled for delivery by the end of November.

Further information on fish advisories can be obtained by calling WDHFS at (608) 266-1120 or at [www.dhfs.wi.gov/eh/fish](http://www.dhfs.wi.gov/eh/fish).

**Green Bay South of Marinette**

**NOTICE**

Fish from these waters contain chemicals. Eating too much may be harmful, especially for women and children. Follow the safe fish eating guidelines below.

Los peces de estas aguas están contaminados. Su consumo puede ser malo para la salud, especialmente las mujeres y niños. Para protegerse y proteger a su familia, siga las recomendaciones siguientes.

Ntses los ntawm cov dej no muaj yam tshuaj khesmis thiab yog noj ntau dhau lawm kuj yuav tsis zoo ib zaug, qhov tseem ntsiab lus yog tsis zoo rau cov poj niam thiab menyua yaus noj. Ua ntej yuav noj ntses ua zoo saib lawv li cov xwm txeej lus qhia raw li nram qab no.

*This front page of one of the pamphlets gives fish advisory information in three languages.*

# Profile On ... Betsy Galbraith

## Oneida Specialist Got Her Hands Dirty at an Early Age

By Greg Swanson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

When Westfield, Wis. native Betsy Galbraith began her summer job as a teenager at a local native plant farm, she realized this was her calling. She spent summers there during her high school and college years working her way up while accepting more responsibility.

Galbraith, 29, who landed a job as an environmental specialist with the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin in April, admitted that those summers probably motivated her to study the Earth. She earned her bachelor's degree in crop and soil sciences and horticulture from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in 1998. She went on to complete her master's degree in ecosystem restoration and ecology, from UW-Stevens Point earlier this year. Between degrees, she had some interesting work experience that should be valuable to her as she starts her natural resource damage assessment and restoration career with the tribe.

As a graduate student, Galbraith worked on the Menominee reservation studying white pine ecosystems. She also spent two years working for the National Park Service as a plant ecologist at Zion National Park, Utah.

"I have lots of plant experience and training," she said. "I also have experience working with government agencies, private companies and nonprofits and that has helped me understand different viewpoints."

Galbraith's main responsibilities with Oneida are coordinating the restoration activities related to the tribe's involvement in the NRDA. She is the manager for the Oneida Lake project, which will be creating a 40-acre sustainable lake on the reservation to give tribal members the opportunity to fish and experience the cultural and recreational use of their natural resources.

While she is not Native American, Galbraith said she understands the Oneida culture. "They have a very holistic way of looking at environmental problems," she



*Betsy Galbraith*

explained. "They try to consider how a project will affect the entire community."

Her duties also include the coordination of the Duck Creek Watershed Model which is examining strategies for the improvement of water quality in Duck Creek. She is also developing additional habitat restoration projects for the tribe to submit to the trustee council for future NRDA funding.

"Oneida is a relatively urban, modern tribe that does things actively for tribal members," Galbraith continued. "They are always thinking of future generations and ways to preserve and restore the environment for the future," Galbraith continued.

Another side of her work involves the eradication of invasive plants on the reservation and promoting the use of native plants through community education efforts.

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## Profile from Page 6

She said it is important to keep up with invasive plants, such as giant reed grass, for many reasons.

“It crowds out native species and makes habitat undesirable by taking over waterways,” she stated. “It’s really tough to get rid of because it spreads by its roots. It takes over everything, so we’re doing research on it. We may have to use herbicides or maybe a prescribed burn.”

Because she gets to split her time between the office and the field, she said her job offers a nice balance.

“I can be in the field one day planning a wetland restoration project while covered in mud,” she noted. “I could be cleaned up the next day for a meeting with Oneida government officials to discuss the tribe’s involvement in the Lower Fox River NRDA.”

She said the most satisfying part of her job is being able to apply the Oneida tribal perspective to natural resource management and working with the tribal community in general.

Although she is enjoying her new job, she still finds time to grow her own grapes and make chardonnay with her husband, Allen, in their Two Rivers home. With their springer spaniel Maisie looking on, the couple bottles about 30 gallons annually for themselves and their friends. “We even have our own label—North Pier,” she concluded. “It’s named after a local pier on the lakeshore.”



### Check out these Web sites:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/foxriver/index.html>

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/foxriver/>

<http://contaminants.fws.gov/Issues/Restoration.cfm>

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/nrda/index.html>

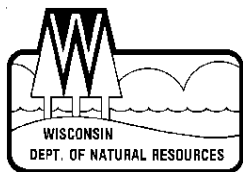
## Information Available at Local Libraries

The Intergovernmental Partners invite the public to review technical reports, fact sheets and other documents related to the Lower Fox River cleanup at information repositories set up in the reference sections of the local libraries listed below. Information repositories at the public libraries in De Pere, Kaukauna, Little Chute, Neenah and Wrightstown have been discontinued. However, binders containing fact sheets are being maintained at these locations as well as at the following repositories:

- **Appleton Public Library**, 225 N. Oneida St., Appleton, Wis.; (920) 832-6170
- **Brown County Library**, 515 Pine St., Green Bay, Wis.; (920) 448-4381, Ext. 394
- **Door County Library**, 107 S. Fourth Ave., Sturgeon Bay, Wis.; (920) 743-6578
- **Oneida Community Library**, 201 Elm St., Oneida, Wis.; (920) 869-2210
- **Oshkosh Public Library**, 106 Washington Ave., Oshkosh, Wis.; (920) 236-5205



*An administrative record, which contains detailed information upon which the selection of the final site cleanup plan was based, is also available for review at two DNR offices: 801 E. Walnut St., Green Bay, Wis. and 101 S. Webster St., 2nd Floor, Madison, Wis. An administrative record is also available at the EPA Record Center, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., 7th Floor, Chicago, Ill.*



Prepared by the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Supporting agencies include Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in these articles are solely those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by all members of the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership.

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*Fox River Current* is published bimonthly by the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership. Its purpose is to provide up-to-date information about cleanup and restoration efforts on the Lower Fox River. Call Greg Swanson at (608) 264-6024 to request a subscription or alternative format. Feedback on articles and ideas for future issues are welcome. Send comments to Greg Swanson, *Fox River Current*, DNR, CE/8, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 or e-mail <gregory.swanson@dnr.state.wi.us>



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